

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 21. Cowbird. | 36. Screech Owl. |
| 22. Bobolink. | 37. Great Blue Heron. |
| 23. Mourning Dove. | 38. Black-crowned Night Heron. |
| 24. Meadowlark. | 39. Migrant Shrike. |
| 25. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. | 40. Hairy Woodpecker. |
| 26. Robin. | 41. Downy Woodpecker. |
| 27. Bluebird. | 42. Chickadee. |
| 28. Field Sparrow. | 43. Bronzed Grackle. |
| 29. Marsh Hawk. | 44. Chewink: Towhee. |
| 30. Prairie Horned Lark. | 45. Scarlet Tanager. |
| 31. Purple Martin. | 46. American Sparrow Hawk. |
| 32. Baltimore Oriole. | 47. Pigeon Hawk. |
| 33. Red-eyed Vireo. | 48. Nighthawk. |
| 34. Rough-winged Swallow. | 49. Semipalmated Plover. |
| 35. Northern Yellow-throat. | |

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON A CAPTIVE RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo borealis*).

BY W. F. HENNINGER.

On August 15th of this year a Red-tailed Hawk was brought to me, that had been shot in the wing while pouncing down on a chicken in a barn-yard. Just a few days before that another had been shot at at the same place, while with a chicken in his talons he was trying to get to an orchard. On August 31st I saw one pursuing a Red Squirrel. This goes to confirm my statement made elsewhere (Wilson Bulletin, December, 1902, p. 138) that the Red-tailed Hawk feeds principally on birds and squirrels. The wounded Hawk brought me is not an adult and I concluded to experiment with my captive to find out just what he would eat. After refusing food for three days he began to eat. So far he has eaten beef, raw, boiled and roasted; also raw and boiled pork, kidney and liver. He would not touch cured meats; nor will he eat veal, except forced by hunger. A Barn Owl, which I had in captivity for a week in 1898, would also refuse veal. He always liked squirrel, whenever offered him. On September 1st I gave him two Yellow-legs and two Field Sparrows, and although he had just been fed with some raw beef, immediately devoured them with great greed; in fact, he would always jump down from his perch and with great ferocity go for birds

at once. He always began with the head, picking it clean, and then tearing it off with his bill would crush it at once and devour it, after which the rest of the bird would follow. He always preferred birds to anything else. The second week in September a Sora was brought to me. This I let lie for three days, till, in the heat, it had begun to decay and smelled very badly. After he had literally stuffed himself with raw meat, about one pound, I threw this decayed Sora in his cage. He went at it at once and ate it in about five minutes. This, in my opinion, does not merely show that the Red-tailed Hawk will eat carrion, and most any bird of prey, when hungry, will do that, but, as he certainly was not hungry at the time, that Red-tails prefer birds to other food. Again, I do not like to make a statement to this effect, as there is so much evidence to the contrary (compare: Hawks and Owls, by A. K. Fisher,——), but it certainly agrees with my observations in Pike and Scioto Counties, as well as my field observations in Seneca County. On September 29th I put a large dead rat in his cage. He looked at it for about ten minutes before touching it, and I hadn't fed him for two days at that. Then he ate the head and the inside, leaving the skin, hind legs and tail intact, and would not eat this till the next day, though I did not feed him anything else. This certainly does not show a great fondness for rats and mice. He never went at them with the greed he showed for squirrels and birds. On October 21 and 22 I fed him raw and fried fish, which he ate immediately. So far I have never been able to get him a snake or frogs, but if I can keep him over the winter will try him on these next spring. Thus I cannot consider the Red-tail as harmless as other ornithologists do, yet would not agree with the majority of sportsmen in calling him a harmful species, as killing of squirrels is not a detriment, but a beneficial service. From a utilitarian standpoint, I can only hope for the extermination of the squirrels, especially the Red Squirrel, though not [from an aesthetic or sentimental standpoint.